RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2018 AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillor: Sarah Peacock - Chairman

Councillors: Colin Wright Richard Lewis
David Coleman Steven North
Andy Mercer David Jenney
Barbara Jenney Philip Humphrey
Ron Pinnock Robin Underwood
Janet Pinnock Adrian House

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

320/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richard Lewis declared a ‘bias’ interest on the consideration of Rushden MIND Community Grant and left the room when this item was discussed and took no part in discussion and voting thereon.

Councillors Janet Pinnock, Richard Lewis and Ron Pinnock declared an Other Interest in the consideration of Rushden Amateur Theatrical Society Community Grant.

Councillors Sarah Peacock and Richard Lewis declared an Other Interest in the consideration of Rushden and Higham Rugby Club Community Grant.

Councillors Colin Wright, David Coleman, Richard Lewis and Adrian House declared an ‘other interest’ in the consideration of Agenda item 16 Rushden Historical Transport Society.

321/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor G Mercer.

322/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 16th January 2018 had been previously circulated to members and it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 16th January 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

323/18 OFF LEAD DOG AREA

Members had been presented with a petition from residents living in South Park, with regard to the management of the off lead dog area in Hall Park.
Resident Brian Jones explained the noise issues residents had been experiencing, particularly in the early morning and how he felt the noise may be reduced.

Members considered the matter at length and it was

RESOLVED

a) Signs will be erected advising users of the park to be considerate to residents living within close proximity.

b) The pedestrian gate closest to Wymington Road would be closed for a 6 month trial period to see if this reduces noise levels. Residents had originally requested that two gates were closed on the south-east side but members resisted this as the second gate was the designated accessible entrance for users with mobility issues.

c) The Wymington Road Park gate will not normally be opened before 6.50am

d) A hedge will be planted along the dog area fence at the south-east side of the park.

The Chairman thanked residents of South Park for attending this meeting.

324/18 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members had been circulated with details of payments made since 13th December 2017 amounting to £120,331.18.

RESOLVED

That payments amounting to £120,331.18 be approved (as attached to these minutes).

325/18 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Members considered the following Community Grant applications:

a) Rushden MIND
b) Rushden Hall Pensioners Parliament
c) Rushden Amateur Theatrical Society
d) Rushden and Higham Rugby Club

RESOLVED

a) To award a Community Grant of £3000.00 to Rushden MIND
b) To award a Community Grant of £682.00 to Rushden Hall Pensioners Parliament
c) Rushden Amateur Theatrical Society – decision was deferred as insufficient information had been submitted.
d) To award a Community Grant of £1500.00 to Rushden and Higham Rugby Club

326/18 SHOP FRONT GRANTS

Members considered the following Shop Front Grant applications:

a) Vaniti Hair and Beauty
b) TJ’s Alternative Gifts

RESOLVED

a) Vaniti Hair and Beauty – decision was deferred as insufficient information had been submitted

b) To award a Shop Front Grant of £384.00 to TJ’s Alternative Gifts

327/18 PROCUREMENT – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Town Clerk informed members that she had contacted Alison Walton who had previously been engaged to help with the procurement of the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Alison is now Legal Director – Commercial, at DAC Beachcroft LLP. The Town Clerk advised that Alison had given a quotation of £8,000 for carrying out necessary legal work and ensuring our procurement was compliant. This figure was 20% less than we had previously paid in 2012.

Members considered this matter it was

RESOLVED

a) Rushden Town Council engages DAC Beachcroft LLP to assist with the procurement for our Grounds Maintenance Contract.

b) The estimate for fees of £8,000 be approved.

328/18 TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The following report was presented by the Town Manager, Julie Thorneycroft.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Quotes</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Commence/Finish Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>Improve visual appearance of the High Street/ surrounding area - Summer Planting 20 barrier baskets, 3 cascade planters and 6 lamp post baskets</td>
<td>Amethyst Horticultural</td>
<td></td>
<td>June – Sep 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>Investigating community uses for vacant premises in the high street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushden Waitrose (adjacent to pedestrian bridge over the A45)</td>
<td>Installation of a Wayfinding Sign – part of overall ENC way finding strategy.</td>
<td>£2200 possible part funding opportunity (ENC)</td>
<td></td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waitrose and Asda sites</td>
<td>Refresh information panels</td>
<td>Approx. £100 each</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Bridge over A45</td>
<td>Wayfinding Signage either side of the bridge</td>
<td>Not yet known – possible part funding from Crown Estates</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushden Lakes</td>
<td>Community Notice Board – Making good use of the community board to showcase events activities in the town. Updating information on a weekly basis. local map identifying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
driving/walking/cycling and bus routes from Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Rushden lakes. The map is on display within the community board alongside an overview of both towns, maps plus local literature are available from the Lakes.

Rushden Lakes

Investigating/trialing a variety of options to build a thriving business community and forge the necessary links with Rushden Lakes. Working with Rushden Lakes Management team to plan a schedule of Summer events (it is now understood the location is unsuitable for winter events/activities) Events taking place at Rushden Lakes will present opportunities for a variety of smaller independent local businesses and community groups to promote themselves to a new audience. Identifying opportunities for business promotion from the Lakes i.e. some premier Rushden based businesses including Dove House Motor Company and White Arches have found mutual benefit in utilizing promotional space at Rushden Lakes.

I work closely with House of Fraser and several events have been held that offer local businesses the opportunity to promote themselves from within the store. Events have included, Desk to Dance floor, an Artisan Christmas Market, leisure & fitness weekend and a recent Wedding Fayre. Many local businesses have had the opportunity to get involved including the local bridal shop who handed out over 60 business cards to potential customers – 60 new people know about her business that didn’t before. A Rushden based engravers helped to promote a Valentines Day event by offering their services to engrave perfume bottles within the store.

I am working with management at House of Fraser to create a full schedule of events that will involve a variety of local businesses including a Tai Chi Day a repeat of the successful wedding fayre, a craft market and children’s activities. 10th March local artists are taking part in an art exhibition within the House of Fraser store.

English Tourism Week takes place 17th to 25th March (National event organised by Visit Britain)
Saturday 24th March I am working with other Nene Valley Tourism partners to showcase the overall tourism offer within the Nene Valley. Event venue is House of Fraser.

Celebrate Rushden
Continuing to formulate a week of events to celebrate Rushden Saturday 9th to 16th June 2018

Heritage lottery funded project in the Rushden Lakes to Rushden stretch of the Greenway
Working as a stakeholder on a project to bring the history of Rushden to life using a digital technology called ‘artcodes’ Workshop 3 will be held on Friday 9th March.

Nene Valley Festival 15th September to 23rd September
Working the Tourism Promotions Board to include Rushden in the event.

Promotion
Editorial articles including a “Spotlight on Rushden” printed in local media.

Rushden and Higham now have a presence on the Rushden Lakes website and links to the town council websites are included. We are working on joint promotional campaigns through social media.

Interestingly the most popular tweet on the Rushden Lakes twitter site in January referred to the Lego event at Osbornes Toy Shop.

Businesses across Rushden
Working with partners at East Northants Council and RTP to support local business through networking events and other activities.

329/18 PROJECTS/WORK IN PROGRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Quotes</th>
<th>Committee Approval if applicable</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Commence/Finish Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rushden Hall</td>
<td>Interior painting</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>In house</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushden Hall</td>
<td>Stone Wall repairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PAD Builders</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Park</td>
<td>Tennis Courts Improvements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Jan/Feb 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Section 106</td>
<td>Estimated Start Date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Spencer Park     | MUGA Improvements
Some funding to come from Grensons Site Section 106 | TBC         | Feb/March 2018       |
| Rose Avenue      | Climbing Frame
Funding from Station Road Site Section 106 monies |             | March 2018           |
| Fosse Green      | New Play Equipment
Section 106 monies – Grensons Site section 106 |             | Spring 2018          |
| Rushden Hall     | Glass Doors
Meeting with Conservator officer |             |                     |
| Spencer Park     | Tree works
Estimates requested |             | January 2018         |
| Memorial Gardens | New posts and chains and seating |             | February 2018        |
| Manor Park       | New Height Barrier/new fencing |             | February 2018        |
| Various sites    | New litter and dog bins
50% completed |             | November/December 2017|
| Trafford Park    | New play equipment
Section 106 monies – Station Road Site |             | May 2018             |
<p>| Hall Park        | Public Toilets |             | June 2018            |
| Cenotaph         | Tree works and tidy of site |             | Completed            |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall Park</td>
<td>Wymington Road Fence</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mallards</td>
<td>New play equipment</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime Street</td>
<td>Replacement Play Equipment</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee Park</td>
<td>Self Closing Gates</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>